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NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

HERE, KITTY, KITTY, KITTY.

Cats! Wild to Mild, opens March 16

ANNUAL REPORT INSIDE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS ON FOLDOUT BACK COVER

■ HERE, KITTY, KITTY, KITTY

For as long as people have walked upright, cats have both fascinated and frightened us while providing a surprising variety of emotional and ecological benefits. The Natural History Museum's new exhibit, Cats! Wild to Mild, features a number of interactive and multimedia attractions on these graceful and powerful animals. Visitors can feel the surface of a lion's tongue, separate facts about felines from myth, and learn to tell what their own dear tabbies are thinking. A special section includes tips on responsible pet care.

The new exhibit is sponsored by Friskies PetCare Company and the National Science Foundation. After its premiere appearance in Los Angeles, it begins a 5-year tour of fifteen other museums across North America and Canada.

Cats! Wild to Mild, opens March 16 at the Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park; tickets to the exhibit are included in museum admission, which is free to members of the Natural History Museum and Petersen Automotive Museum. Complete information on the exhibition may be obtained by calling 213/744-DINO or by logging on to the Natural History Museum's Cats! Wild to Mild website at www.nhm.org/cats.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

■ ANNUAL MEMBERS' OPEN HOUSE DATE CHANGED!

The Natural History Museum will now hold its 26th Annual Members' Open House on **Saturday, April 19,** from 6 to 9:30 p.m. On this one evening each year, members can visit areas normally closed to the public. By providing the opportunity to go "behind-the-scenes" and meet curators and other staff members in their laboratories and offices, the museum is able to offer members a more intimate view of its important research, exhibits, and educational programs.

For this year's Open House, we are unlocking doors on all five floors of the Museum of Natural History in Exposition Park! Craft activities for children are planned, along with several other special events. We look forward to welcoming you to this popular and fascinating members'-only event.

■ BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM

Members at the Naturalist ($250) and Explorer ($500) levels are eligible for a popular benefit, in which curators give special tours of the Natural History Museum's laboratories and collections areas and then join guests for private receptions. We thank Dr. Brian Brown (entomology), Dr. Art Evans (Insect Zoo), Dr. Tod Stuessy (botany), Dr. Margaret Hardin (anthropology), and Dr. Janet Fireman (history) for welcoming our members and sharing their expertise during the fall 1996 tour series. Another exciting series of tours is now being planned for the spring. If you have suggestions about areas that should be included, or if you would like to upgrade your membership and receive invitations to these exclusive events, please call the Membership Office at 213/744-3426.

■ TAX DEDUCTION OF MEMBERSHIP

As the deadline for filing 1996 income tax returns approaches, members are reminded that portions of the dues at each membership level are designated tax deductible, as shown below. For further information, please contact your tax advisor.

Membership Level	Tax-deductible Amount
$40, Active	$40
$50, Family	$50
$100, Contributing	$95
$150, Patron	$125
$250, Naturalist	$225
$500, Explorer	$450

■ MUSEUM TRAVEL PROGRAM

Natural History Museum tours are planned by museum staff members in conjunction with the finest educational tour operators. The 1997 program includes the following exciting trips:

■ **Alpine Walking Tour in Italy and Austria,** July 9 to 16. The Dolomites of northeastern Italy offer Alpine scenery unparalleled, with more than a dozen peaks over 9,000 feet. To the north, the Tyrol of Austria is a land of classic mountains, dark forests, and meadows; the region is known for its folklore, colorful clothing, distinctive cuisine, and of course yodeling. Well-marked hiking trails crisscross the landscape, and many of the major peaks can be reached by cable car, offering stunning vistas and dramatic walking opportunities. $1,695 plus airfare.

■ **Peruvian Rain Forest,** July 30 to August 8. Each morning, hundreds of parrots and macaws convene on the shores of the Tambopata River in a spectacle that the *National Geographic* has called "one of the world's most dazzling wildlife gatherings." Join us at the Tambopata Research Center, and explore rain forest ecology with the naturalists working there. Our trip also includes the Archaeological, Gold, and Larco Hererra Museums in Lima and an optional extension to Cuzco and Machu Picchu. $2,995 including airfare.

For more information on these and other upcoming adventures, please call Museum Travel Coordinator Karen Hovanitz at 213/744-3350.

CATS IN THE GALLERY STORE

During the run of Cats! Wild to Mild, the Ground Floor Gallery Store in the Exposition Park museum is categorically stocked with delightful gifts and educational materials. The store features an exceptional selection of books, videos, and CD-ROMs on kitty care and cat lore as well as posters, stationery, T–shirts, plush toys, ceramic gift items, and jewelry with cat themes. A special array of feline fundamentals includes ID tags, designer food bowls, and a new type of cat carrier called the Sturdi-Bag. The store is open during museum hours and can be reached at 213/748-8024.

The illustrations of cats in this issue of TERRA *are by Natural History Museum illustrator Robert Reid and were drawn for the exhibition Cats! Wild to Mild.*

Annual Report, 1995–1996
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

We live in a time of the greatest extinction of species since the end of the Cretaceous—never was there more need to understand the flora and fauna of our planet. Our society grows ever more diverse, especially in southern California, making it more essential that we understand our roots and our cultures. As Americans are increasingly confronted with the need to know more about complex scientific and environmental issues, the need for increased public understanding of science grows.

From the assessment section of the strategic plan adopted June 21, 1995.

As President of the Board of Trustees of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, I write to the readers of this 1995–1996 annual report with a strong sense of optimism and gratitude. I am optimistic because the museum has a mission that is more important than it has ever been. The flora and fauna of our planet are threatened as never before; religious and ethnic groups here in Los Angeles and around the globe continue to be far too divided. An institution that exists to help people understand their natural and cultural heritages therefore holds an increasingly vital role.

I am heartened because the Board of Trustees has increased its financial support of the museum and is showing a renewed sense of dedication. New appointees to the board, joining with the seasoned "old hands," are making a big difference. I am optimistic because the museum has an experienced team of senior administrators, led by Dr. Jim Powell, that is as capable as that of any nonprofit of which I am aware. They have brought the museum's budget—both private and county—into balance and have instituted a strong sense of the importance of planning. I am encouraged because of the upgrading soon to take place in two of our homes: Exposition and Hancock parks.

I am grateful because—as demonstrated by their generous support—so many people in southern California obviously share these feelings. I am endebted to my fellow trustees and to the members of the Alliance Board of Directors, not only for their financial patronage, but for the time they give and for the quality of their advice. I am especially grateful for the confidence the board has placed in me by electing me to lead them while I am still a relative newcomer. I will do my level best to live up to that trust.

Finally, I welcome the opportunity to serve this 84-year-old institution as it approaches the twenty-first century. As at most nonprofits, the road ahead will not be easy. But with our vital mission uncompromised and with the superb quality of the people who work for and care about the museum, I believe we are moving into a bright future.

Kevin W. Sharer
President, Board of Trustees
Natural History Museum of
Los Angeles County

Cover: Jerry Mao and his sons Eric *(left)* and Philip pose with the Tamkin Dueling Dinosaurs during a visit to the Exposition Park museum; the boys had come intent on seeing dinosaurs and sharks. In the report year, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County welcomed 750,000 visitors to its four locations.

Back cover: Museum member Adria E. Elvira *(left)* brought her grandmother Virginia Sotelo and aunt Libia G. Estrada to tour the Exposition Park museum on a Sunday afternoon. Our surveys have revealed that their unlimited admission to the museums in the Natural History Museum complex is a popular benefit for the institution's 15,000 member families.

The year 1995–1996, my second as President and Director, was an important transitional period for the Natural History Museum. It was the first year in which the museum was operating under the strategic plan adopted by the Board of Trustees in June 1995. The initial product of the planning process was the mission statement that appears at the top of page 5 of this report. While some might argue about just how superior this revised declaration of our purpose is to the old statement, there is no doubt that the many hours of discussion and opinion-seeking that went into crafting the new one were invaluable. Since not only I, but other members of the senior staff, were new to this museum and indeed to natural history museums in general, the process of ferreting out the best possible description of our basic charge was highly educational. Participants learned a great deal, not only about the museum but about the priorities of their colleagues. We now have a mission statement whose every word has been scrutinized carefully and which is broadly understood and supported.

The strategic plan calls for the staff and trustees to address unflinchingly each of the major issues confront-

Mr. Sharer *(left)*, who is COO of Amgen, Inc., and Dr. Powell

ing the museum, and we are doing exactly that. The four major goals identified in the plan are:

- To provide outstanding exhibits, programs, and service to a growing audience (representatives of the many groups that make up our clientele are featured in the illustrations to this report),
- To achieve excellence by focusing resources,
- To create a revenue and support base that will sustain excellence, and
- To strengthen the operation of the Board of Trustees.

The 1995 plan is admittedly not of the "let's go to the Moon" variety. Rather it is a nuts-and-bolts, down-to-earth description of how to improve all aspects of the basic operation of this museum. In my judgment, the plan has two most important thrusts. First, to hold to the principle that nothing less than excellence can ever be acceptable. And second, to recognize that, in these times of reduced resources, no institution can maintain a high-quality effort in every activity for which it was noted in the past. True excellence today can come only from a careful selection of the spheres in which continued distinc-

tion is attainable and sustainable; it is in these arenas that we must then concentrate our precious assets and energies.

Today the strategic plan adopted in June 1995 has largely been implemented. My senior staff and I are now beginning a second round of planning, which like the first will involve many members of the staff, individuals from our constituent groups, and all members of the Board of Trustees. As those who have worked with me know, I subscribe to the view of Dwight D. Eisenhower: "Plans are useless, but planning is indispensable." I believe that we can remain vigorous only by being flexible and willing to constantly consider new options.

With a strong staff, and an ever stronger board, the time has come for us to begin to peek up at "the Moon" and consider just how we might reach it. Our immediate concern is to determine how we can best interpret, for the twenty-first century that is upon us, the museum's timeless mission—and do so in a way that is irresistibly attractive to our customers. Specifically, which new world-class permanent exhibitions should we mount? In anwering that question, we will need to engage all of the friends of this museum, and all of the major supporters of the quality of community life in southern California.

Like other nonprofit institutions, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County would not exist were it not for the tireless dedication of those who care deeply about its mission. I thank them on behalf of all the people in southern California and around the world who look to our museum to help them appreciate their natural and cultural heritages.

Dr. James L. Powell
President and Director
Natural History Museum of
Los Angeles County

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As of February 28, 1997

OVERVIEW

The Natural History Museum exists to advance knowledge and to enable people of all ages, backgrounds, and interests to understand and appreciate their natural and cultural heritage. The museum assembles, conserves, interprets, and holds in trust collections of irreplaceable objects from nature and human history. These collections reveal the history of the Earth and the evolution and diversity of life and culture. They sustain programs of research, exhibits, education, and publication.

Mission statement, from the strategic plan adopted June 21, 1995.

Four Museums

Thirty-five million specimens and artifacts spanning 4.5 billion years of Earth's history form the basis for the Natural History Museum's programs of research and interpretation. Since it opened to the public in 1913, the museum has grown to encompass four major cultural attractions, each with permanent as well as changing exhibitions, and a number of important scholarly and educational operations.

The **Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park,** is the fourth largest natural science and cultural history museum in the United States. Its 150,000 square feet of public galleries, which include halls devoted to gems and minerals, living and extinct mammals, dinosaurs, birds, Native American and pre-Columbian cultures, and U.S. and Southwest history—attract more than 300,000 visitors annually. Its architecturally distinguished building also houses the administration for the entire Natural History Museum complex as well as most of our collections and research laboratories.

The **George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries** in Hancock Park is located at the site of one of the world's richest deposits of Ice Age fossils. Its galleries, laboratories, and storerooms house the Rancho La Brea heritage—more than 3 million fossil plants and animals that have been excavated from the La Brea Tar Pits since the early 1900s. The museum's colorful displays of extinct creatures and prehistoric landscapes, which are based upon this vast collection, give an incredibly detailed picture of life in North America from 4,000 to 40,000 years ago. The Page Museum is visited by more than 275,000 people each year.

The **Petersen Automotive Museum**, one of the most carefully researched and vividly rendered museums of its kind, chronicles the influence of the car on all aspects of life in southern California in the twentieth century. Through its dioramas and special exhibitions of rare and classic passenger vehicles, trucks, and motorcycles, the museum dramatically illustrates technological and design innovation as well as auto-related highlights from Los Angeles history. Attendance in 1995–1996, the Petersen Museum's second full year of operation, was 150,000.

The Spanish colonial style mansion that houses the **William S. Hart Museum,** in Hart Park in the City of Newhall, was once the home of the silent screen star, director, and scriptwriter famed for his portrayals of Western heroes. Hart's personal effects and movie paraphernalia are displayed in the museum's comfortably appointed rooms along with treasures from his collection of Native American and Western American art. Each year, approximately 20,000 people visit Hart Park and Museum.

The Collections

Objects and specimens relating to twenty-one disciplines are held in trust by the Natural History Museum. The various collections range in size from the relatively small but unique holdings at the William S. Hart and Petersen museums to those in, for example, entomology, vertebrate zoology, and paleontology, which are of worldwide significance in their size and scope. The collections are maintained by a staff of fifty-seven specialists, including nineteen curators—each with responsibilities for research, collection growth, and interpretation—and thirty-eight collection managers and curatorial assistants, of which fourteen are funded by grants and contracts.

The **Mineralogy** collection includes nearly 50,000 specimens of minerals, rocks, and gems. Although the collection is worldwide in scope, it is particularly strong in minerals from California and in native gold, gem crystals, and colored gems. As a whole, the collection ranks as the most important of its kind in the western United States. Significant specimens are on display in the Exposition Park museum's Hall of Gems and Minerals, a 7,500-square-foot area that contains a walk-in gem vault, an impressive display of natural gold, fine examples of California minerals arranged by region, a gallery describing the geologic origins of gemstones, and exciting audiovisual and interactive presentations.

The **Invertebrate Paleontology** collection contains 3.5 million specimens of

fossils dating from the Pleistocene back to the Precambrian, 570 million years ago. It is the largest collection of its kind in the southwestern United States, and it includes representatives of every major invertebrate group known in the fossil record as well as organisms from all geological periods and continents. The collection features the nation's largest arrays of California mollusks from the Cretaceous (65 to 145 million years ago) and Pleistocene (10,000 to 1.9 million years ago).

The **Rancho La Brea** material displayed and curated at the George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries makes up the world's largest collection of terrestrial fossils from the late Pleistocene. Excavations through this century in the asphalt deposits in and around Hancock Park, near downtown Los Angeles, have yielded over 3 million specimens representing more than 550 species. These materials include single-celled plants, pollen, leaves and trees, mollusk and arthropod invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Archaeological and historic artifacts from the site are also conserved.

Although the primary emphasis of the **Vertebrate Paleontology** collection is on Cenozoic specimens from western North America, it includes a small but significant section on dinosaurs. The collection comprises more than 500,000 specimens and is one of the largest in the world. Included are some of the oldest recognized fossil vertebrates as well as the remains of animals that became extinct as recently as 10,000 years ago. The collection contains particularly important assemblages of fossil fishes and sharks, terrestrial and marine mammals, and birds.

The **Archaeology** collection consists of about 150,000 objects from sites of human occupation around the Western Hemisphere and represents cultures tracing back as far as the Paleo-Indian Period (12,000 years ago). It is particularly strong in artifacts from California and the Southwest; its materials from Mexico and Central and South America enrich a major hall on pre-Columbian cultures in the Exposition Park museum.

The **Ethnology** collection includes about 30,000 artifacts produced by the native peoples of the New World, Oceania, Africa, and Asia. It is a particularly important resource on North American cultures—it includes materials such as Navajo blankets, Wind River Shoshone objects, and pieces from the Los Angeles Basin not found in most other museums as well as a major section on present-day Native American arts, the center of which is the collection assembled for an exhibition entitled Lost and Found Traditions: 1965–1985. Both ancient and modern examples of the work of North American peoples are displayed in the Exposition Park museum's Times Mirror Hall of Native American Cultures.

The **History** material culture collection of more than 500,000 objects is one of the largest dealing with United States history. The collection is unique in its diversity and its wide representation of material from the American past as well as its focus on California and Southwest history. Included are objects relating to professions and trades, buildings and architecture, historic sites, housewares, transportation, communications, costumes and textiles, government, politics, and military history; aspects of the arts—music, entertainment industries, fine arts, and folk art—are also represented. The collection documents and supports exhibitions in several major halls in the Exposition Park building.

The **Research Library** includes a diverse collection of printed materials and ephemera, including almost 100,000 books and a greater number of periodical volumes on natural history, history, and anthropology; it is the largest collection of its kind in California. Its particular strengths include an array of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century botanical prints, holdings on the history of technology, and sections of very rare materials, such as Los Angeles theater programs and southern California newspapers from the 1800s.

The **Seaver Center for Western History Research** contains manuscripts, books, maps, pamphlets, prints, posters, and other exhibit and research materials that together represent more than 1 million records relating to the history of the American West. About one-fourth of the collection is photographs, including some 150,000 images that cover the history of California and the West from the 1850s to the 1950s. A particular strength is Spanish- and English-language materials—personal, business, legal, and governmental manuscripts—relating to southern California.

The **Entomology** collection, with its 5.3 million specimens of insects, spiders, and related arthropods, is worldwide in coverage but particularly rich in materials from the southwestern United States and the American tropics. It includes one of the nation's best collections of ants, bees, and wasps as well as a major assemblage of butterflies and moths. Several of its sections—for example, the midges and the phorid flies—contain extremely rare and exotic species and are among the largest collections of their kind.

The museum's **Crustacea** collection, comprising some 4 million specimens, is the fourth largest in the world and ranks second in size in the nation only to the holdings of the Smithsonian Institution. It includes the few known examples of certain extinct species as well as more than 400 "primary types," each the important specimen upon which the scientific definition of an entire species has been based. The collection includes a wide array of shrimps, lobsters, crabs, and related aquatic arthropods from the eastern Pacific Ocean.

With 4 million specimens, the collection of **Polychaete Worms** is the third largest in the world and another in our museum that is outranked in the U.S. only by that of the Smithsonian. It is unmatched in its

Teachers Anna Born-Alcaraz *(top row, second from left)* and Claracille Murphy *(fourth from left)* with students from the 32nd Street Visual and Performing Arts Magnet School, in the Exposition Park museum's Hall of Native American Cultures. Curriculum enrichment is an important goal for the Natural History Museum's Education Division: during the report year, 200 educators participated in an evening program aimed at introducing the Native American hall to teachers and demonstrating the learning potential of a class visit to the museum.

coverage of the eastern Pacific, both in terms of abundance of material from various locales and in representation of species found at different depths in the water column. Because marine worms are important indicators of the health of their sediment and seawater habitats, the museum's polychaetes are in wide use and are critical to national and international environmental assessments.

The **Malacology** collection, the largest scientific reference collection of its kind in the western United States and the fifth largest in the world, includes 4 million specimens; 500 of these have each been designated the primary type, or basic defining specimen, for its species. The collection is especially rich in mollusks from the eastern Pacific, from Alaska to Chile; it also includes an important section of microscopic fauna.

The **Echinoderm** collection is worldwide in scope and unparalleled in its wealth of specimens from the eastern Pacific and parts of the western Pacific; the fauna of the Caribbean are also particularly well represented among the total of 600,000 specimens of brittlestars, sea stars, sea urchins, and related marine organisms. Like several other Natural History Museum collections, the echinoderm holdings rank second in size in the U.S. only to those of the Smithsonian. Its significance rests on its breadth of coverage and its abundance of unique and irreplacable material.

The museum's collection of **Fishes,** which contains 7 million specimens, is one of the largest and most comprehensive in the United States and is recognized as an international resource as well. It includes major holdings of marine fishes from the eastern, central, and Indo-West Pacific as well as smaller sections of special or unique materials, such as marine fish eggs and larvae, Neotropical and California freshwater fishes, fishes from the Antarctic and Galapagos, and a megamouth shark. In addition to being the basis for taxonomic and ecological research, the collection is often used by archaeologists because of its world-renowned array of skeletons and of otoliths, the fish inner ear stones that—when present among the remains of the habitations of early humans—provide a record of the people's diet and seasonal activities.

The collection of **Amphibians and Reptiles** contains 144,000 cataloged specimens and is one of the top ten in the United States in size and significance. The coverage is global and is particularly strong for the southwestern U.S., Mexico, Central and South America, and Africa. The collection's special features include its holdings of frogs from Queensland, Australia, and an extensive series of lizards from the deserts of North America, Peru, Australia, and southern Africa. In addition to specimens preserved in alcohol, there are significant ancillary collections of skeletons, chromosome preparations, photographs, herpetological publications, and frozen tissue samples for DNA analyses.

With 110,000 specimens, the museum's **Birds** collection is the second largest in western North America; material from 80 percent of the world's genera, and 60 percent of the world's species, is included. It is particularly rich in birds from South America and Africa, and its holdings from parts of Uganda and Kenya represent areas that in many cases are now completely deforested. Our collection of seabirds, most of which are from the Pacific Ocean, is one of the largest in North America. The collection supports one of the Exposition Park museum's permanent exhibitions, the Ralph W. Schreiber Hall of Birds.

The **Mammals** collection of 95,000 specimens contains representatives of all of the orders and families of mammals and includes the world's second largest collection of marine species. The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration has designated the collection its official depository for whales, dolphins, and porpoises. Other strengths of the collection are its extensive holdings of bats and a large series of African and Central American mammals. Our large collection of specimens from southern California documents species diversity prior to urban development.

The museum's botany holdings consist of a fine collection of **Cryptogams,** the flowerless and seedless plants such as algae and ferns that reproduce through spores. Among the total of 195,000 specimens are 75,000 fungi, including important collections from the Neotropics, southeast Asia, and California and the West; a strong section on mosses, liverworts, and other bryophytes from the southwestern U.S; and 60,000 marine algal specimens representing the diversity of these organisms in the Eastern Pacific Basin.

Public Programs

The Education and Exhibition divisions work at all four facilities in the Natural History Museum complex to build a bridge between the research collections and the owners of these collections—the public. The museum's professional educators and designers serve as interpreters, planning exhibits that use the collections and the expertise of our staff scholars to provide enjoyable learning experiences for visitors. The education staff also designs and implements supplemental and enriching events—such as school tours, workshops and classes, lectures and symposia, outreach programs, and publications—that provide background information about collections and research and exhibits topics. Our public programs are the vehicle for curatorial contact with members, visitors, and students.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Early in the new millennium, the Natural History Museum will have embraced its traditional strengths and focused its resources to establish firmly its position as a great North American museum, strategically located on the rim of the Pacific and poised to exploit the opportunities of the twenty-first century and beyond.

From the vision statement of the strategic plan adopted June 21, 1995.

In the activities of the report year, the museum administration and staff were guided by the assessments and overarching needs outlined in a strategic plan approved by the Board of Trustees. High on the list of priorities were goals related to focusing resources, developing a strong revenue and support base, and increasing attendance and improving exhibits and programs through partnerships with other organizations. Progress was made in every area; a few of our accomplishments are summarized here.

Collections surveyed and ranked. In early 1996, under the leadership of Dr. Tod F. Stuessy, then Deputy Director for Research and Collections, the museum's biological, geological, and cultural collections were reviewed by staff and compared with those in other institutions around the world. The overall size of our holdings—34,562,677 objects and specimens—is one factor contributing to our ranking fourth among natural history museums in the United States, after the Smithsonian, the American Museum in New York City, and the Field Museum in Chicago.

The Tamkin Dueling Dinosaurs. Dinosaurs are now the first display that visitors encounter as they enter the Museum of Natural History in Exposition Park. Following a plan devised by the museum's Vertebrate Paleontology experts and using both original bone and cast components, a *Tyrannosaurus rex* and a *Triceratops* skeleton were assembled and positioned in the foyer in April 1996, mounted in the antagonistic postures that these animals may often have assumed in life.

The dramatic display represents two generous donations widely separated in time. Many of the fossil bones in the mounts were collected in the late 1960s, during expeditions funded by Museum Trustee, the late William T. Sesnon. And the fabrication of the mounts and construction of the exhibit have been made possible by a generous gift from Museum Fellows Dr. S. Jerome and Judith D. Tamkin, through their Tamkin Foundation. With the recent addition of the base for the mounts and the surrounding informational panels, the Dueling Dinosaurs provide the museum with a vibrant hallmark on a subject of enduring interest to our patrons.

Traveling exhibits program. Rental of exhibits to other museums continues to be a source of revenue for our institution: during the year, seven of our exhibits were on tour, appearing in venues in the U.S., Canada, and New Zealand. And three of the traveling exhibitions are acting as models for future new projects.

Empires Beyond the Great Wall: The Heritage of Genghis Khan, which was developed in cooperation with the Inner Mongolia Museum of China and has been traveling for two years, opened in New Zealand in May. Its success has provided us with the opportunity to bring a new exhibit out of the People's Republic of China—this time, from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, China's largest and most northwesterly administrative district. In this desolate desert area, archaeologists have discovered remnants of several ancient civilizations, including one dating from 4,000 to 200 B.C. and marked by the presence of desiccated human remains that are undeniably Caucasoid. The new exhibit will be the third on the Eurasian silk routes and East-West cultural exchange that the Natural History Museum has produced.

In June 1996, in its sixth year on the road, the exhibit Sharks! Fact and Fantasy, was being readied for an appearance in Ibaraki, Japan. Museum-goers' enthusiasm for this award-winning show—and for a more recent one on whales, dolphins, and porpoises—has prompted us to develop another single-topic traveling exhibition, Cats! Wild to Mild, which will open in Los Angeles in March 1997. In addition to providing a platform to showcase our collections and research specialties, all of these exhibits convey basic biological principles and important educational messages about human-animal interactions and environmental conservation.

New audiences for education. In providing programs on a variety of natural and cultural history topics for all age groups and educational levels, and for people who rarely visit museums as well as those who regularly do so, the Natural History Museum's educators are challenged to use innovative methods in addition to regular classroom, gallery, and auditorium settings. This year, we again offered

the Page Museum Day of Sunshine for homeless children from local missions and the Senior Outreach project for elderly people in convalescent hospitals and retirement homes. And in October, through the Petersen Museum's T.E.C.H. Project ("Teaching Empowerment through Comprehensive History"), 30 youngsters who are residents of Los Angeles housing projects or clients of the county's Probation Department were given lessons in automotive history during a day behind the scenes and in the pits at the National Hot Rod Association drag races.

Friskies exhibit sponsorship. A museum exhibit can offer the right sponsor an exciting way to increase its visibility among potential customers. The Natural History Museum's exhibition on cats, to open in 1997 and then travel to museums throughout the U.S. and Canada, is providing just such an opportunity for Friskies PetCare Company, a division of Nestle. After helpful introductions from museum Board of Trustees member Lynn W. Brengel, Friskies and the museum entered a partnership in early 1996. Friskies' national sponsorship of Cats! Wild to Mild, brings a needed infusion of capital and marketing clout to the museum, allowing us to improve display components and to more effectively promote attendance. In turn, Friskies will benefit from its prominent role in a prestigious educational exhibition that is expected to be seen by more than 3 million cat lovers as it tours across North America.

The Seamobile is launched. In October, the museum's newest outreach program, the Gluck Seamobile, went on the road and began to visit schools in Los Angeles County. Patterned after our successful Earthmobile (also created and operated with funds from the Maxwell H. Gluck Foundation), the new mobile museum gives challenging hands-on opportunities for enrichment and discovery in the marine sciences to sixth- to eighth-grade students on their school grounds. The 48- by 8-foot trailer truck houses the re-creation of a scientific submersible in which the student "oceanographic researchers" bent on solving an environmental mystery are taken on a video-simulated dive beneath the sea off southern California. The Seamobile program, which includes teacher training and supporting curriculum materials, will serve approximately 12,000 students each year.

Ventures with the Taiwan Museum. In 1995, we entered into a "sister" museum relationship with the National Museum of Natural Science in Taichung, Taiwan. In the first of several joint projects, the two museums brought from Taiwan a major exhibition, Stones from Heaven: Ancient Chinese Jade, which opened in Los Angeles in 1996. A generous grant from the Aurora Foundation of Taiwan provided underwriting for special educational programming associated with the exhibit. With the help of our Taichung partners, we are now looking into bringing an exhibit on Chinese Cambrian fossils to North America. In addition, the research and collections professionals from the two museums are exchanging information on holdings and preservation techniques and planning a joint collecting expedition for 1997.

Community partnerships in education. This year, working with other agencies, the Education Division developed three new programs for the south-central Los Angeles community, the nearest neighbors of our Exposition Park museum. With the cooperation of the Los Angeles City Library, the museum provided free one-day passes for the patrons of five libraries located in the area. Next, as part of the Neighborhood Exploration Program, the museum and the University of Southern California piloted an enrichment program in the Exposition Park building's halls and galleries for fifth graders in five local schools. In another effort, the Exposition Park museum's Discovery Center provided a special afterschool program in cooperation with Blazer House Safe Haven, a community center that works to give science and technology enrichment to sixth- to eighth-grade children.

Petersen Museum acquisitions. The growth of the collections is critical to the success of the Petersen Automotive Museum's exhibition and education programming. During the report period, we received donations of automotive books, owner's manuals, brochures, service manuals, and various historic advertising materials. Through gift and purchase, thirty-two vehicles were also acquired. Chrysler Corporation gave a 1992 Dodge Viper—a pilot production car and the fifth Viper built, and Robert E. Petersen donated money to purchase a Cadillac built in 1903, the first year that the manufacturer was in production.

Expanding educational outreach. In recent years, the museum has substantially increased its community outreach, partly in response to cutbacks in money available for school field trips. Programs such as Classroom Collections, the Traveling Insect Zoo, and the Earthmobile take the museum, with its rich sensations and exciting learning activities, to school sites to increase our contacts with students. Of the 750,000 people participating in the Natural History Museum's education programs during the year, 250,000 were served through our traveling, outreach, and specimen and artifact loan efforts.

Information technology office established. In 1996, the museum's computer specialists were gathered together from various divisions to form a new unit, the Information Technology Section. The four experts now work together to plan and support computer and special media projects throughout the museum. As a result, our World Wide Web outreach (www.nhm.org) is greatly expanded and improved, and the number of desktop computer stations in the museum has grown.

We were able to obtain the permission and financial support of the County of Los Angeles needed to link the Exposition Park, Page, and Petersen museum staffs through a new data and telecommunications network, to be installed in the coming year. We are now concentrating on developing more extensive technological support for education and research, and we plan to purchase new administrative information systems that will let us streamline the museum's reporting and recordkeeping relating to membership, visitor admissions, purchasing, and donations.

Collections on computer and on line. The museum's research and collection experts continue to use computers and the Internet to gather as well as disseminate information. For certain collections, Entomol-

Dr. Stephen R. Goldberg, Campbell Professor of Biology at Whittier College and a Research Associate of the Natural History Museum, examines Northern Leopard Frogs *(Rana pipiens)* preserved in our collection of amphibians and reptiles. Dr. Goldberg is studying the occurrence of parasites in deformed frogs (the high frequency of grotesquely abnormal or missing limbs in this species in Minnesota is sparking international alarm).

Goldberg and 300 other honorary museum staff members contribute to and make frequent use of our collections. In addition, the museum regularly sends material from its holdings for study by scientists and historians in other institutions around the world; more than 300 such loans were made in the 1995–1996 year.

ogy now attaches a bar-coded label to each new specimen so that its number can simply be scanned to summon a collection record needed for an insect database. Ornithology is making use of the World Wide Web in conducting a survey of breeding birds in Los Angeles County, an effort that involves the work of hundreds of volunteer birders; the atlas that will result will be an important tool in local conservation efforts. And our new Crustacean Biodiversity Survey site on the museum's web page (www.nhm.org/cbs) allows the give and take of records and observations on the world's shrimps and crabs and their relatives.

Cooperative marketing programs. The museum's 1995 joint venture with Hanna-Barbera, Inc., worked to re-energize the Exposition Park museum's existing dinosaur hall. Designers from Hanna-Barbera and education experts from the museum together developed a series of colorful and exciting interactive components for display among our existing array of skeletons of dinosaurs and other extinct animals.

Another cooperative program centered around the grand opening of the new "Jurassic Park" ride at Universal Studios Theme Park. A special exhibit on the museum's dinosaur specimens and related materials was strategically placed where it could be viewed by all ride participants.

Public television station KCET joined with us to feature the Petersen Automotive Museum in a series of in-kind promotional programs, including 30-second announcements about the museum during the station's popular membership drive.

Research and collections publications. A research project is not really completed until the results are published in an appropriate scholarly journal. Through these publications, our work receives the attention of specialists, but it is also imperative that we make our findings available to the general public. During the report period, the staff of the Research and Collections Branch produced a number of articles, for general interest publica-

tions as well as scholarly journals. Complete listings of staff and museum publications appear in the Annual Report section of the museum's World Wide Web page (www.nhm.org/annual_report).

Three books, each the culmination of several years of effort on the part of a museum curator, were released: John Heyning's *Masters of the Ocean Realm: Whales, Dolphins, and Porpoises* (University of Washington Press in association with the museum); Tod Stuessy's *Sampling the Green World: Innovative Concepts of Collection, Preservation, and Storage of Plant Diversity* (Columbia University Press); and Gordon Hendler's *Echinoderms of Florida and the Caribbean: Sea Stars, Sea Urchins, and Allies* (Smithsonian Press). We recently learned that *John Randolph Haynes: California Progressive*, a book written by Tom Sitton, Curator of History, and published by Stanford in 1992, has received the prestigious Pflueger Local History Award.

Petersen Museum cooperative ventures. In keeping with our goals of providing outstanding new exhibits for the Petersen Automotive Museum and developing beneficial relationships with community and industry groups, we have entered into a partnership with SEMA, the Specialty Equipment Market Association. The initial result was an exhibit on hot rodding, a segment of automotive history that has often been overlooked. SEMA's financial support provided the means to build an exciting diorama of 1950s and 1990s speed shops; the display chronicles the changes in products, technology, and safety features that accompanied the growth of the aftermarket automotive equipment industry.

The Petersen Museum's success has been enhanced by assistance from the automobile industry and other related businesses: in addition to receiving underwriting and grants, we have also gained access to resources and specialized talents that might otherwise be unavailable to a not-for-profit institution. We are currently discussing new projects with SEMA, and we have also proposed joint exhibit ventures to a toy manufacturer, an auto manufacturer, and a consumer auto parts company.

Media relations improved. The Natural History Museum's new Director of Media Relations has already made significant progress in establishing contacts with print and broadcast professionals and in setting up procedures for promoting the institution's public programs and disseminating information about our collections and research. Particular attention was given to positioning each of our four facilities to the media. This effort has been rewarded with outstanding national, regional, and local coverage of the opening of each new exhibit and of our special events and seasonal activities, such as the annual 6-week excavation of the La Brea asphalt deposits.

Improvements to Hancock and Exposition parks. During the year, the Natural History Museum worked with community groups and neighboring institutions to plan significant enhancements to the parks that are the sites of two of its facilities. The ongoing renovation of Exposition Park, home to the Museum of Natural History as well as other cultural and sports venues, will result in improved access, security, landscaping, and recreational facilities. In 1997, Hancock Park, where the Page Museum, the Tar Pits, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art are located, will be remodeled to better connect and highlight its paleontological and art sites and to improve its security and landscaping.

New headquarters for museum education. In September 1995, the museum significantly expanded its service to the public with the opening of an education wing in the Exposition Park museum. The 9,500-square-foot Education Center houses four classrooms for public and school programs and a library and meeting room for our 300 teaching volunteers as well as offices for staff. The classrooms are being used by the high-school-age scientists in our research apprenticeship program, which is sponsored by the National Science Foundation, as well as for children's and adult workshops, parent/child classes for preschoolers, public lectures, teacher workshops, and meetings of local neighborhood groups. The beautifully equipped new learning center has allowed the museum to increase its effectiveness while enlarging its audience.

Renovations in Exposition Park museum. During the report period, monies became available from the County of Los Angeles for deferred maintenance projects in the Musuem of Natural History in Exposition Park. Using this one-time-only funding, we were able to sandblast and repaint a significant portion of the exterior of the building, to replace more than fifty windows whose frames had weathered beyond repair, and to recarpet several public galleries and make other important refurbishments. The museum is also installing a sophisticated new system for monitoring its halls and entrances that will signficantly enhance security in the building.

Museum Stores reorganized. The Museum Stores, which are very popular with visitors and museum members, extend the educational mission of the institution while providing financial support for our overall programs. In 1995–1996, we reorganized store management and began to respond to new customer demands and a new retail environment. The stores concluded a moderately successful experiment in catalog sales over the 1995 holiday season, managed an extensive Native American festival in spring 1996, and closed the year with a net surplus. Our goals for the coming year include consolidation and updating of our Exposition Park museum shops and strengthening of the Page and Petersen operations. We are also developing exciting new signature merchandise for each museum.

Outstanding volunteer efforts. In almost every phase of its operations, the Natural History Museum benefits from the energy and dedication of volunteers and docents. They are the mainstay of the touring and outreach programs at all four museums, and they also provide thousands of hours of expert and enthusiastic assistance for research, collections management, excavation, exhibition, membership recruitment, and special events. In the report year, they contributed 80,278 hours to the work of the institution.

We thank the curatorial volunteers and the members of the Docent Roundtable, the Museum Service Council, the Petersen Museum Pit Crew, the Page Museum Docent Associates, and the volunteer committee of the Friends of Hart Park and Museum. A complete list of our 594 volunteers appears in the Annual Report section of the museum's page on the World Wide Web (www.nhm.org/annual_report).

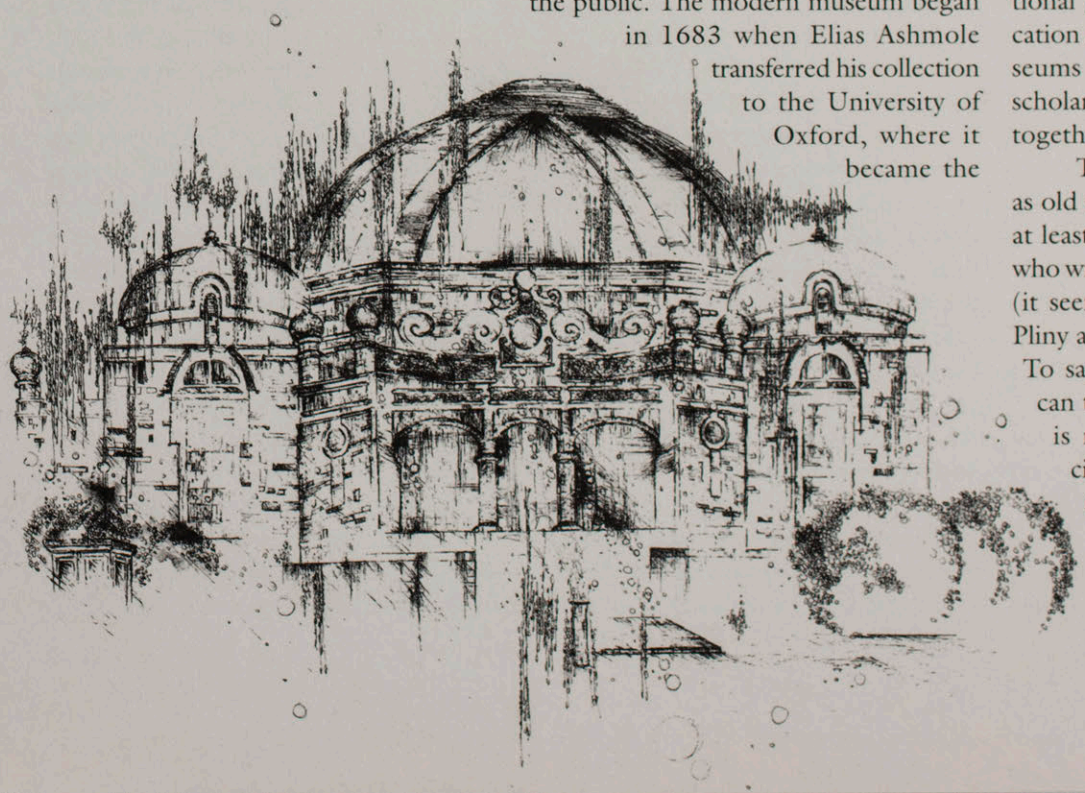
Archives for the Planet

by Dr. James L. Powell

IN THE REST OF THIS ANNUAL REPORT, you will find an accounting of the financial progress of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and listings of support received from our generous donors, for which we are most grateful. These records largely speak for themselves. But as we present them, it is appropriate to pause to remind ourselves of the end served by our financial means. What is the purpose of, and the justification for, a natural history museum, and why is it worthy of support? These are the questions I wish to explore in this essay.

The word *museum* originated in classical Greece, where it referred to the "seat of the Muses," a place for the philosophical discussion of which the ancient Greeks were fond and expert. But the idea of a museum, at least in the sense of a collection, may go back much further, back to the dim beginnings of recorded history: a Babylonian tablet dating to the twenty-first century B.C. appears to be a museum label for what were regarded as antiquities even then. Apparently, to be human is to collect.

By the seventeenth century, the term *museum* usually referred to a private or royal collection of curiosities, or "cabinet of wonder." As Enlightenment ensued, it came to be realized that such collections ought to be made available to the public. The modern museum began in 1683 when Elias Ashmole transferred his collection to the University of Oxford, where it became the still-famous Ashmolean Museum. Since that time, museums have increased, expanded, and diversified, and today many thousands exist, one in almost every corner of the globe. Museums seem to reflect a deep human need to preserve and access our natural and human past, and to celebrate the finest achievements of our species.



As museums shifted from being private and the province of the wealthy to serving the public, their collections were unlocked and presented for various audiences to see and enjoy. Objects on display initially were thought to speak best for themselves, requiring little or no interpretation. Over time, the educational role that exhibits can play came to be more appreciated, and museums created staffs of experts who knew how to display objects effectively and to provide accompanying text and other learning aids. As the sciences of biology, anthropology, geology, and paleontology developed throughout the second half of the nineteenth century, museums were seen as the proper and best repositories for important specimens and entire private collections. Museums established scientific staffs, who performed research on the burgeoning collections and made them available to other researchers. In the twentieth century, and especially in the last few decades, museums have become important partners in the formal educational process and have developed education staffs for that purpose. Today, museums deliver their mission best when scholars, exhibitors, and educators work together as a team.

The term *natural history* is almost as old as the word *museum*, dating back at least to Pliny the Elder (A.D. 23–79), who wrote a famous treatise with that title (it seems likely that the term predated Pliny and was in general use by his day). To say that a natural history museum can tell us about the history of nature is more than a tautology—it succinctly reminds us of the purpose of these institutions. Unless we know the history of nature, we cannot appreciate—and may inadvertently discard—irreplaceable

parts of our natural inheritance. Unless we understand how long it took for evolution to achieve the present biodiversity of our planet, unless we have some idea of how many species became extinct in the process, we are apt to adopt an attitude toward those that are endangered today that is far too cavalier. Unless we are reminded of the great human achievements of the past, we become forgetful and arrogant. George Santayana said that "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Unless we heed his admonition on the grand scale provided by natural history museums, we forfeit our opportunity and our obligation as the only known sentient species in the universe. If we do not recall what went before, both on a human and on a geological time scale, who will?

THE COLLECTIONS OF NATURAL history museums are the Earth's archives. They preserve the natural and human history of our planet. These collections have been amassed over centuries, often at great expense and sometimes at risk of life and limb. Were it not for the courage (and sometimes—we must admit—obsession) of collectors, our legacy would be lost and ultimately forgotten. Museum collections form the only reservoir, save nature itself, of the raw materials of our planet. They are the true facts, and the only ones we have.

An analogy is sometimes drawn between museum collections and libraries. Yet this is not apt, for even the nonfictional works in libraries are opinions, not facts. A better analogy might be between the original Greek version of the Bible and all subsequent translations and adaptations—no later version can be as accurate and as authentic as the first. No one would question that we must preserve the original Bible at all costs—it is the ground truth for an entire major world religion. In the same way, original specimens in museum collections are the ground truth of our planet.

History has shown us repeatedly that when a great museum collection is broken up, as we see happening today in Kabul, Sarajevo, and St. Petersburg, it is never again assembled. For a natural history museum, dispersal of the collections is—like extinction—an irreversible process. All too many species have gone extinct, or become so rare that they are (quite properly) protected and can no longer be collected. The expense and logistics of collecting are now prohibitive in many cases. To purchase specimens may also be precluded: a prime specimen of *Tyrannosaurus rex*, for example, now runs from $5 to $10 million. Countries that were once accessible now have closed their borders to foreign collectors. Sites that were once rich sources of specimens have since been destroyed. Collections were often labors of love for a particular curator who has now passed on, leaving no one else with the incentive to start over. Many objects in museum collections—and certainly the collections taken as a whole—are unique and irreplaceable.

Museum collections are often huge, numbering in the scores of millions of specimens. What justifies their size? Why, members of the public can well ask, do museums need so many individual specimens? Does a whole drawer, if not an entire cabinet, need to be filled with representatives of a single species? These are fair questions, and there are good answers. Scientists learn much from studying the variation within species as well as between them; subtle differences from one individual to another shed light on ecology and evolution. Often a particular collection is the only one that exists any-

Museum collections form the only reservoir, save nature itself, of the raw materials of our planet. They are the true facts, and the only ones we have.

where in the world. Since one cannot foretell the future and know what questions will turn out to be important, it is impossible to say how many specimens is enough—better to have too many than too few.

BUT SO FAR I HAVE BEGGED THE question of the utility of museum collections in the first place. Accepting that they contain the true facts of the universe, what is their practical value? What do museum curators actually do with collections that makes the whole enterprise of sufficient value to the public to justify the expense? (In considering this issue, I am indebted to a fine article in *Curator* magazine by Warren Allmon, Director of the Paleontological Research Institution in Ithaca, New York.)

Museum collections document our planet's past. The only way of learning about an extinct species is to study specimens in a museum collection. The only way of learning of changes that have happened over time is to have the record that is encoded in a museum collection. The bald eagle, our national emblem, provides an example. During the 1960s, scientists and environmentalists began to notice that eagle populations had plummeted and that the survival of the species was imperiled. Some suspected a connection to the increasing use of the pesticide DDT. In investigating, scientists turned to collections and sampled bald eagle eggs taken both before and after DDT was introduced. The older eggs had no DDT and thick shells; the younger ones were severely contaminated with DDT and had shells so thin that they could no longer bear the weight of the parents. Once DDT was banned, the bald eagle made a dramatic comeback. A similar benefit was realized when the Smithsonian's collection of fishes was used to show how poisonous mercury had built up in the environment.

Expeditions to build our museum's collections while studying avian reproduction in remote regions of the Pacific Ocean had a surprising result: one year's routine sampling trip revealed that the entire seabird community of a central Pacific atoll, Christmas Island, had failed to reproduce. El Niño, a naturally occurring oceanographic and atmospheric disturbance that was quite severe in 1982–1983, was found to have caused the death of millions of birds and their chicks. Until that time, the biological implications of El Niño episodes were barely recognized.

One lesson from these examples is that it is impossible to say which part of a museum collection will prove useful in the future. When the older specimens used in the DDT studies were collected, the substance was not yet in wide use as an insecticide; when the Christmas Island birds began to be added to our collections, biologists were not concerned about the occasional El Niño. By showing how plant and animal species were distributed in the past and how habitats have changed as a result of changes in environmental conditions, collections allow us to understand how climate fluctuations and human activities have affected ecology and evolution. Museum collections provide an indispensable historical record without which certain important questions simply cannot be asked.

Museum collections sometimes contain hidden treasures. The famous fossil *Archaeopteryx* has characteristics of both birds and dinosaurs and may be the transitional form between them. It was first discovered from a single feather in the Solenhofen limestone in Bavaria. *Archaeopteryx* is so dinosaur-like that one specimen with poorly preserved feathers was originally described as a skeleton of a small bipedal dinosaur, *Compsognathus*. Of the seven known *Archaeopteryx* specimens, two resided in museums drawers, mislabeled, for more than a century. Who knows what other treasures lie in our cabinets awaiting closer scrutiny?

Why do museums need so many individual specimens? Does a whole drawer, if not an entire cabinet, need to be filled with representatives of a single species?

AS A RESULT OF THE WORK OF many people over generations and centuries, the collections of a large natural history museum reveal the history and diversity of life on our planet. In no other single place can one see the entire range of biodiversity. It is an awe-inspiring experience and brings home just how precious life is, in all its different forms. An analogy might be the view of the Earth sent back from space by the astronauts of the 1960s: for the first time, we could see our planet—Spaceship Earth—all at once. It is perhaps no accident that interest in the environment accelerated at just that time. In the same way, a few hours spent in a natural history museum renew our dedication to protect all creatures on this the only body in the universe that we know with certainty to have given rise to life.

Collections provide the raw material for delivery of a museum's mission of public service. Objects from the collections are mounted in halls and galleries so that museum visitors can share in the wonder and come to understand our world. As with research, it is not possible to know in advance which parts of a collection may prove important for exhibition in the future. For example, the Natural History Museum had accumulated over the years an important collection of automobiles but had no adequate space in which to display them. Although for that reason they might have been deaccessioned, it is fortunate that they were not, for now they form the basis for our fine Petersen Automotive Museum. Specimens from our own collections make up most of our traveling exhibits on sharks and cetaceans.

The museum's collections ground its education activities. Students who participate in special programs are able to touch and study real objects and thus to

share in the core experience that motivates scientists. Schools and educators are able to borrow certain specimens and artifacts, for which there is a long waiting list. Objects from the collections fill our wonderful traveling museum classrooms, the Earthmobile and the Seamobile. Without access to our great collections, the museum's education program would be impoverished.

BUT EVEN IF WE ACCEPT THE importance of museum collections, what justifies the expense of maintaining and supporting a staff of experts to perform research on those collections? Why not simply preserve the specimens until some specific need arises? In part, the justification for research on museum collections is the same as that for basic research. Basic research, as opposed to applied, is directed not toward some societal or economic goal but toward the expansion of knowledge in general. The curiosity of the individual scientist—an innate desire to know how things came to be the way they are—is what drives basic research. Many innovations that we take for granted today originated decades ago in curiosity-driven research programs. Radar, semiconductors, radioactivity, and the laser are a few that come readily to mind.

What do museum curators actually do with collections that is of sufficient value to the public to justify the expense?

The practical case for basic research in a nutshell is that we do not know which discoveries will prove useful until they have been made and their implications explored. Carl Sagan, in *The Demon-Haunted World* (which unfortunately is his last book), underscores this point with characteristic clarity:

> Maxwell wasn't thinking of radio, radar, and television when he first scratched out the fundamental equations of electromagnetism; Newton wasn't dreaming of space flight or communications satellites when he first understood the motion of the Moon; Roentgen wasn't contemplating medical diagnosis when he investigated a penetrating radiation so mysterious he called it "X-rays"; Curie wasn't thinking of cancer therapy when she painstakingly extracted minute amounts of radium from tons of pitchblende; Fleming wasn't planning on saving the lives of millions with antibiotics when he noticed a circle free of bacteria around a growth of mold; Watson and Crick weren't imagining the cure of genetic diseases when they puzzled over the X-ray diffractometry of DNA; Rowland and Molina weren't planning to implicate CFC's in ozone depletion when they began studying the role of halogens in stratospheric photochemistry.

An enlightened society must support basic research, not only to satisfy the innate drive of our species to know, but as a purely practical matter.

Studies of museum collections form an important part of the panoply of basic research. Our knowledge of insects and plants rests on the collections housed in museums. Without them, we would have no foundation with which to understand and protect against human ailments such as malaria, borne by mosquitoes, and Lyme disease, borne by ticks. We would not have the core of knowledge that allows us, for example, to ensure that the correct species of predator or parasite is used in a biological pest control program. Research on paleontology collections housed in museums is the foundation of the search for oil. Research on endangered plant species that may turn out to have important medicinal properties is conducted in museums, where the specimens are housed. In short, museum collections provide the foundation for much of biology, geology, anthropology, and history.

But no practical argument for preserving museum collections and supporting research on them is as important as this: museums are the final resting place for irreplaceable objects that millions of years of natural history, and thousands of years of human history, have bequeathed and entrusted to us. They are the chronicle of our planet. Were visitors from space ever to arrive and desire to learn how our natural and human world came to be the way it is, they would do best to head immediately for the nearest natural history museum, there to find history and prehistory presented in an easy-to-understand way.

Without museum collections, we have not a prayer of learning from the past, understanding the present, and preparing for the future. Museum collections are the precious family album of Planet Earth.

Illustration on page 13 by Margaret A. Wilson; collection of Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

Treasures of the Tar Pits. Rotunda, June through November 1995.

Shadowbirds: Photographs by William Burt. Director's Gallery; closed August 1995.

Our Weakening Web: The Story of Extinction. Dart Gallery; closed August 1995.

William Stout's Visions of Gondwana: Past and Present Life in Antarctica. Director's Gallery and Foyer, September through November 1995.

Masters of the Ocean Realm: Whales, Dolphins, and Porpoises. Dart Gallery, October 1995 to January 1996.

The Flintstones' Din-o-scovery. Display modules in Dinosaur Hall, opened December 1995.

The Pantanal: Brazil's Forgotten Wilderness. Director's Gallery, December 1995 throgh March 1996.

The Tongass: Alaska's Vanishing Rain Forest. Rotunda, December 1995 to March 1996.

Stones from Heaven: Ancient Chinese Jade. Dart Gallery, March to May 1996.

California Wetlands. Paintings from the California Art Club. Director's Gallery, opened April 1996.

In the Dark. Dart Gallery, opened June 1996

Also on display in the ground and first floor galleries:

Scenic View Ahead: *Westways* Cover Art from the Automobile Club of Southern California, July to October, 1995.

Objects of Serenity: California Mission Paintings by Stella Cordova, July 1995 through June 1996.

The Glory of Nature: Paintings by Hao Shong Sheng, January to April 1996.

Moths: Photographs by Kirby Wolfe, closed June 1996.

Kente Cloth in Africa and North America, case exhibit, closed June 1996.

An Endangered Giant: The Delhi Sands Giant Flower-loving Fly, case exhibit, opened June 1996.

Petersen Automotive Museum

Customizing Comes of Age: The Work of Boyd Coddington. Meyer Gallery, closed July 1995.

Hot Rods. Meyer Gallery, opened July 1995.

American Classics of the 1930s. Grand Salon, opened July 1995.

Nissan Racing Cars. Racing Gallery, opened August 1995.

Cars of the Movies and Television. Hollywood Gallery, closed September 1995; reopened June 1996.

The Rods and Customs of Billy F Gibbons. Hollywood Gallery, September 1995 to June 1996.

Harley Legends. Third floor gallery, opened November 1995.

State of the Art, 1955-1960. State-of-the-Art Gallery, closed January 1996.

State of the Art, 1905-1910. State-of-the-Art Gallery, opened January 1996.

Indianapolis Cars Built in Los Angeles. Racing Gallery, opened February 1996.

1932 Cadillac (closed March 1996) and 1932 Chrysler (opened March 1996), 1930s New Car Showroom.

Speed Shop Diorama, Specialty Equipment Market Association. State-of-the-Art Gallery, opened March 1996.

Also on view in the second and third floor galleries:

Scenic View Ahead: *Westways* Cover Art from the Automobile Club of Southern California, closed July 1995.

Scott Williamson, Photographer, July to October 1995.

Jesse Alexander: 40 Years of Motorsports Photography, October 1995 to April 1996.

Vehicles of Expression: Photographs by Kathleen Estrada, November 1995 through February 1996.

Junk Yard Collages by Peter Tytla, closed November 1995.

Works by Automotive Fine Arts Society Members, closed November 1995.

Tabletop Rodders: Handbuilt Racing Car Models, case exhibit, opened November 1995.

Around the World with Garry Sowerby, closed February 1996.

Angry Cars and Crowded Freeways: Works by Phil Morrell, opened April 1996.

Photographs by Jane Gottlieb, closed May 1996.

Creative Wood Sculpture by W.W. Fayette, opened May 1996.

Wood on Wheels: Photography by Gayle Fann, opened June 1996.

Arthur Drooker: Ten for the Road, opened June 1996.

On the Move: Car Art by Kids From Around the World, November 1995 to June 1996

Traveling Exhibitions

California Reptiles and Amphibians. Pacific Grove Natural History Museum, Pacific Grove, California, closed July 1995.

Dinosaurs, Penguins and Whales: The Wildlife of Antarctica. Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology, Drumheller, Alberta, closed August 1995.

Empires Beyond the Great Wall: The Heritage of Genghis Khan. Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria, British Columbia, March to September 1995. Musée de la Civilisation, Québéc City, Québéc, November 1995 to April 1996. Auckland Institute and Museum, Auckland, New Zealand, opened May 1996.

Lu-Huan: Stone Carvings by a Chinese Master. California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, December 1995 through May 1996.

Masters of the Ocean Realm: Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises. San Diego Museum of Natural History, San Diego, California, closed September 1995. Museum of Science and Industry, Tampa, Florida, February to May 1996. Nassau County Museum, Port Washington, New York, opened June 1996.

Sharks! Fact and Fantasy. Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California, closed September 1995. New York State Museum, Albany, New York, October through December 1995. Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Ontario, Feburary to May 1996.

Treasures of the Tar Pits. Nassau County Museum, Port Washington, New York, February to May 1996.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County consists of two separate financial entities—the Natural History Museum Department of the County of Los Angeles and the private nonprofit Foundation of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. The financial statement below demonstrates the level of funding developed and provided by each of these components.

The year 1995–1996 was financially very successful. We ended the year with slight surpluses in both the foundation and county operating budgets. At the same time, we began the process of reorganizing museum financial staff and introducing new financial policies and procedures with a two-fold goal: to provide better internal management and controls for the budget and to be able to generate better financial reports for the use of the museum's governing bodies—the boards of Trustees (foundation) and Governors (county). We began to develop county and foundation budgets in a more coordinated manner. We also strived to provide more information and support to the museum's managers.

While a large portion of our revenue ($2.9 million, including $770,828 from the Petersen Museum) is derived from admissions and membership, underscoring our importance to the southern California community, an even greater amount ($4 million, including $719,000 from the Petersen) comes from grants, gifts, and contracts, which demonstrate a national recognition of the importance of our collections, research, and public programming. With few exceptions, expenditures for the year were within the range of what was budgeted, and we were able to reduce our line of credit considerably (efforts at further reductions are a high priority). We are proud to have realized net gains of $10.3 million on our endowment, the financial stability for our future.

Our financial goals for 1996–1997 include continuing to develop and enhance policies and procedures, generating sufficient revenue to cover all costs, and consolidating and rationalizing our current budgeting processes.

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Combined revenues and expenditures for the County of Los Angeles and the Natural History Museum Foundation

July 1, 1995, through June 30, 1996

Revenues	
Admission Fees	$1,418,559
Investment Income	1,401,505
Membership Fees	722,274
Shops, Cafeteria, Museum Use	1,353,380
Petersen Automotive Museum	2,419,721
Education, Exhibits Revenues	787,082
Miscellaneous	642,217
Support	
Restricted Grants and Contracts	2,301,613
Unrestricted Gifts	1,060,426
County of Los Angeles Appropriation	9,902,000
Total Revenues	**$22,008,777**
Expenditures	
Public Programs	2,417,036
Petersen Automotive Museum	2,339,902
Research and Collections	2,614,293
Restricted Grants and Contracts	2,566,775
Shops, Cafeteria, Museum Use	1,291,527
Development	729,967
Administration and Operations	9,179,353
Total Expenditures	**$21,138,853**
Operating Surplus	**$869,924**

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July 1, 1995 through June 30, 1996

Grants and Contracts to the Natural History Museum

Active as of June 30, 1996

GETTY GRANT PROGRAM
$9,000, Joan C. Grasty, Multicultural undergraduate internships in education

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$943,000, Joan C. Grasty, Seamobile construction and operation for 3 years
$847,000, Joan C. Grasty, Earthmobile construction and operation for 3 years

JOHN RANDOLPH HAYNES AND DORA HAYNES FOUNDATION
$81,000, Tom Sitton, The history of the Haynes Foundation

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
$7,000, John E. Heyning, Life-history parameters of fisheries-caught marine mammals

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
$21,000, Tod F. Stuessy, Botanical research on Juan Fernandez Island, Chile

$190,000, Joel W. Martin, Transfer of decapod crustacean collection from University of Southern California to Natural History Museum

$118,000, Karen Wise and Susan K. Lafferty, Museum Research Apprenticeship Program

$118,000, Robert L. Bezy and Susan K. Lafferty, Museum Research Apprenticeship Program

$269,000, Brian V. Brown, Systematics of ant-decapitating flies of the genus *Apocephalus*

$249,000, Kirk Fitzhugh, Transfer of polychaete collection from University of Southern California to Natural History Museum

$94,000, Joel W. Martin, Systematics and evolution of pond-dwelling crustaceans

NATIONAL UNDERSEA RESEARCH PROGRAM, NOAA
$23,000, Gordon E. Hendler and Joel W. Martin, Functional adaptations related to feeding and locomotory behaviors of deepsea brittlestars in the San Diego Trough

$25,000, Gordon E. Hendler, Feeding and locomotory behaviors of deepsea brittlestars in the San Diego Trough

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON
$1,970,000, Robert J. Lavenberg, Support for geographic information and analytical services, 1995–1996

$242,000, Robert J. Lavenberg, Research and analytical support for environmental health

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
$48,000, Joel W. Martin, NATURENet, public access to the Internet and World Wide Web.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
$38,000, Margaret Ann Hardin and Karen Wise, Implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
$18,000, Karen Wise and Chris Coleman, Curation of archaeological collections from San Nicolas Island, California

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
$3,000, Janet R. Fireman, Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage Project: Preparing a finding aid for the *Alcalde Court Records, 1830–1850*

WEILER FOUNDATION
$14,000, Karen Wise, Settlement among peoples of the Archaic Period (3,000 to 8,000 years ago) along the south coast of Peru.

$5,000, Margaret Ann Hardin, Pottery revival at Zuni Pueblo: An ethnographic case study

$12,600, Robert L. Bezy, An investigation of all-female night lizards

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Dr. Kirk Fitzhugh, Curator of Polychaetes, with high-school senior Cassie Fox-Percival. In 1995-1996, Fox-Percival, who has a strong interest in marine biology, participated in our Museum Research Apprenticeship Program for gifted, highly motivated students; she is conducting scanning electron microscope studies of minute structures of certain polychaete worms, under the guidance of Dr. Fitzhugh. Since 1989, MRAP—which is funded by the National Science Foundation—has provided 180 young scientists with the opportunity to participate in actual research, working side by side with museum curators and educators. During the report year, we learned that two of the museum's student researchers, one an MRAP graduate, were honored as semifinalists in the prestigious Westinghouse national science talent search.

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PROGRAMS FOR MEMBERS AND VISITORS

March/April 1997

LECTURES & SPECIAL EVENTS

A lecture and booksigning

■ GUNS, GERMS, AND STEEL

The Fates of Human Societies

Sunday, March 9, 2 p.m., Jean Delacour Auditorium, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

Until around 11,000 B.C., all peoples were still Stone Age hunters and gatherers. But as the domestication of indigenous plants and animals became the prevailing mode of existence, a rapid change in the rates that human societies evolved took place. How did these vast differences in societies arise, and why weren't the native Australians, Americans, or Africans the ones to colonize Europe?

Dr. Jared Diamond, Professor of Physiology at the UCLA Medical School, explores this great divide and examines the fascinating development of human civilization. Dr. Diamond reveals convincing evidence linking germs to the domestication of animals and to the Eurasian colonization of Europe and the Americas. As he outlines the rise of agriculture, technology, writing, government, and religion, Dr. Diamond dismantles pernicious racial theories, which trace societal differences to biological differences, and provides a theory of human history as intriguing as the histories of dinosaurs and glaciers. $7 members, $9 nonmembers, $5 students with I.D.

A lecture and booksigning

■ AN INORDINATE FONDNESS FOR BEETLES

Sunday, April 6, 2 p.m., Times Mirror Conference Room, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

Upon being asked what could be inferred about the Creator from a study of His works, the British scientist J.B.S. Haldane reportedly replied, "An inordinate fondness for beetles." If sheer numbers of species were a criterion for success, then beetles would have to be among the most successful animals on Earth. By the most conservative estimate, there are approximately 350,000 species of beetles known to science. No other group of animals exhibits such a range of color, size and form. Their peculiar anatomies and activities have captured the attention of humans for thousands of years and have given rise to intriguing myths and legends.

Dr. Art Evans, Insect Zoo Director, presents a slide-illustrated lecture based on his new book, *An Inordinate Fondness for Beetles* (Henry Holt, 1996), co-authored with Dr. Charles Bellamy. Dr. Evans will sign copies of the book following his lecture and will display and discuss living and preserved specimens from the museum's extensive collection of Coleoptera. $7 members, $9 nonmembers, $5 students with I.D.

A lecture and booksigning

■ THE WHOLE SHEBANG

Monday, April 28, 7 p.m., Griffith Observatory, 2800 Observatory Road

Dr. Timothy Ferris, reputed to be "the greatest science writer in the world," recounts the exciting developments that have put cosmology—the scientific study of the universe—in recent headlines. Dr. Ferris will shed light on the riddle of genesis as he shares a nontechnical account of the state of current cosmological theory and forecasts where the field is likely to go in the twenty-first century. Cosponsored by the Natural History Museum and the Friends of the Observatory. $2 museum and FOTO members; $4 adult nonmembers, $2 children ages 5 to 12 and seniors.

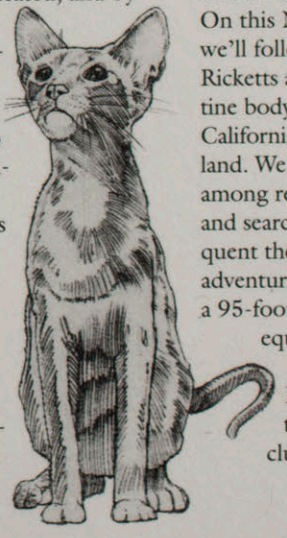
ADULT CLASSES

■ THE PHARAOH'S FELINES

The History of Cats in Ancient Egypt

Saturday, May 10, 2 to 4 p.m., Times Mirror Conference Room, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

The origin of most modern cats can be traced to ancient Egypt. As early as 2000 B.C., wild cats were domesticated, and by the time of the New Kingdom they were a regular feature in tomb paintings. Not only was the cat one of the most favored animals, it also was revered as a sacred manifestation of the Egyptian goddess Bastet. Tremendous numbers of bronze figures as well as mummified cats attest to the animal's great popularity.



Archaeologist **Jay Bisno,** formerly of the Natural History Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, gives a provocative look at the role that domestic cats played in one of the earliest civilizations. $15 members, $20 nonmembers.

■ PREHISTORIC PREDATORS

The Saber-toothed Cat

Saturday, May 24, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Education Classroom, George C. Page Museum

Chris Shaw, Collections Manager for the George C. Page Museum and an expert on evidence of injuries and disabilities found in saber-toothed cat fossils, conducts a morning workshop on these fascinating extinct cats. Chris will explain why we know that saber-toothed cats weren't striped and how paleontologists decipher other clues to the cats' anatomy and lifestyle that they uncover in the famous tar pits. Through visiting the museum's laboratory, viewing the fossil collections, and examining certain specimens with Chris, we'll also see how paleontologists can determine behavior in extinct species by studying anatomy and musculature. $15 members, $20 nonmembers.

ADULT FIELD TRIPS

A natural history cruise

■ IN STEINBECK'S WAKE

Exploring the Sea of Cortez

Saturday, March 22, to Saturday, March 29

In the 1940s, author John Steinbeck and renowned marine biologist Ed Ricketts embarked on an expedition through the magical Sea of Cortez in the Gulf of California. Their adventure is recounted in Steinbeck's classic novel *Logbook from the Sea of Cortez.* On this Natural History Museum cruise, we'll follow the route of Steinbeck and Ricketts and rediscover the beautiful and pristine body of water that separates the Baja California Peninsula from the Mexican mainland. We'll explore secluded beaches, snorkel among reefs resplendent with colorful fish, and search for the many great whales that frequent these waters. Our home for the week's adventure will be the Marine Vessel *Searcher,* a 95-foot-long sportsfishing boat fully equipped for wildlife expeditions.

The trip begins and ends in La Paz, Baja California Sur (transportation to and from La Paz not included). Accommodations are 2- to 4-

person cabins onboard the *Searcher*. Cost is $1,950 members, $1,995 nonmembers. A deposit of $250 is required to hold each reservation. For more information and reservations, please call 213/744-6912.

■ EXOTIC FELINE BREEDING COMPOUND

Saturday, April 5, 10:30 to noon

Dedicated to the preservation of endangered species, the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound houses an average of 50 large cats, including the rare North Chinese Leopard and Siberian Tiger. **Jim Angus**, a biologist who is also the Natural History Museum's Web Site Manager, accompanies our trip to this unique facility to explain the role that genetics and DNA play in preserving endangered species. Then specially trained docents will give us a tour of the compound and describe its program for breeding endangered cats. The Exotic Feline Breeding Compound is located in the city of Rosamond (about 1½ hours from Los Angeles); participants provide their own transportation to the site. $12 members, $15 nonmembers.

■ SPRING IN THE OWENS VALLEY

Friday through Sunday, May 2 to 4

Celebrate spring in the Owens Valley when a colorful sea of wildflowers brightens this barebone country of geologic wonders. And discover the richness of native culture during this special season with Paiute **Richard Stewart**. Visit the petroglyph sites of ancient peoples and gather clay from nearby deposits for a Friday night pottery-making and folklore session. Spend Saturday with local members of the Native Plant Society and botanist **Mary DeDecker** exploring the bounties of spring bloom. Behold fields of Wild Iris, carpets of Desert Dandelion, and hedges of fragrant lilacs set against the spectacular backdrop of the snow-covered Sierra. Enjoy Indian fry-bread and an evening of local fiddle music on Saturday night. As our weekend comes to an end, we'll be treated to a Sunday morning outdoor concert featuring the Eastern Sierra Chamber Orchestra performed during the traditional Paiute firing of your hand-crafted pottery.

The package includes two nights of lodging at the Winneduhma Hotel in Independence, all meals, and round-trip chartered motorcoach transportation. Tour departs at 8 a.m. on Friday morning and returns by 8 p.m. Sunday evening. $265 members, $290 nonmembers. A limited number of single supplements are available at an additional cost of $60.

An evening hike

■ INTO THE NIGHT

Saturday, May 24, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Naturalist **Peter Rice** leads an evening hike in the Santa Monica Mountains. Explore the varied mountain terrain, sample edible plants, and learn about the different animals that call this area home. After sunset, study the Milky Way and hear stories of the Chumash Indians. The hiking is easy to moderately difficult, with a 400-foot elevation gain. Children ages 10 and older may attend if accompanied by an adult. $20 members, $25 nonmembers.

■ SOUTH WESTERN COLORADO MINING TOUR

Saturday, September 6, through Saturday, September 13

Experience a chunk of American history as we explore several of Colorado's nineteenth-century towns renowned for their rich mining histories. Along the way we'll visit a number of abandoned and working mines, including the underground Idaho Spring's Phoenix Gold Mine, where miners still push tons of gold and silver ore about in small railroad cars, just as they did 100 years ago. We'll uncover the history of this bygone era as we listen to stories of the miners, hunters, and settlers of the area. We'll also encounter the legacy of Colorado's mountain railroading history on rides on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad through the San Juan Mountains, and the Leadville, Colorado and Southern Railroad along the Arkansas River to the spectacular Fremont Pass.

Affording us a different view of Colorado is a day of rafting through Durango, where our river guide will share with us the history of the region as well as stories of local tradition. Our trip leader is historian and lecturer **Dr. James Fell,** who has authored such books on mining history as *Mining the Summit: Colorado's Ten Mile District 1860-1960* and *Ores to Metal.* For a complete itinerary, please phone 213/744-3534. $1,199 members, $1,249 nonmembers based on double occupancy; price includes 7 nights accommodations, some meals, and transportation within Colorado. A limited number of single supplements are available.

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY PROGRAMS

To ensure the best possible experience for your child, please abide by the age requirements stipulated in our program descriptions.

■ THE WOLF

Real or Imagined?

Saturday, March 8, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Jean Delacour Auditorium, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park. Children ages 6 and older with accompanying adult

Come and meet Koani, a 100-pound gray wolf from Montana, and Indy, her dog companion. Wildlife biologist **Patricia Tucker** will give your family a glimpse into the secret lives of North America's most fascinating predators, and documentary filmmaker **Bruce Weide** shares stories from myth and folklore that reveal the wolf that stalks human imagination. $5 members, $7 nonmembers.

■ CAT NAP

Overnight, Saturday, March 22, to Sunday, March 23, 7 p.m. to 8 a.m., Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park. Children ages 5 and older with accompanying adult

Spend the night with lions and jaguars in the museum's African Mammal Hall and discover the differences (and amazing similarities) between these wild cats and our domestic feline friends. We'll join in hands-on activities, create cat-crafts and explore the newly premiered exhibit Cats! Wild to Mild, all with our favorite museum instructors! An evening snack and a light breakfast are included. Participants bring their own sleeping bag and air mattress. $40 members, $50 nonmembers.

A family camping trip

■ FOSSIL HUNTING AT RED ROCK CANYON

Friday, May 9, through Sunday, May 11. Open to families with children of all ages

Discover the world of Miocene fossils on this family camping trip to beautiful Red

(continued on reverse)

Rock Canyon. We'll search for fossils with museum curator **Dr. Dave Whistler,** the only paleontologist with a collecting permit for Red Rock Canyon. We'll also take nature hikes, learn about the unique geology of the region, and roast marshmallows around the evening campfire. Best of all, parents can relax while **Helen Whistler** prepares all three meals on Saturday as well as breakfast on Sunday. You provide transportation and camping gear, we'll take care of the rest! Arrive anytime after noon on Friday. Members: $65 child, $95 adult; nonmembers: $75 child, $105 adult.

■ FABULOUS FELINES

Saturday, April 26, 10 to 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 to 2:30 p.m., Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park. Children ages 3 to 4 with accompanying adult

Learn all about our pouncing pal—the cat—in this hands-on workshop led by Los Angeles Zoo preschool educator **Paulette Heath.** We'll touch pelts, examine skeletons, and tour the new exhibition, Cats! Wild to Mild, to discover how cats use their tails, teeth, ears, and whiskers to survive in the wild. We'll also uncover the ways our feline friends at home behave like their wild cousins, the lion and tiger. You'll even create a cat-craft to take home. $25 members, $30 nonmembers.

■ SUNDOWN SAFARI

A Family Campout at the Los Angeles Zoo

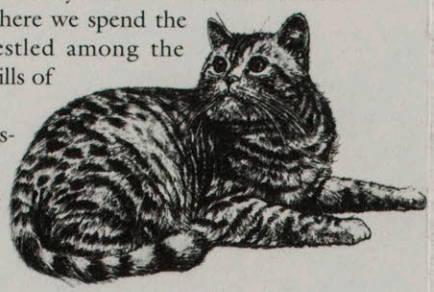
Overnight, Saturday, April 26, to Sunday, April 27, 5 p.m. to 9 a.m. Children of all ages welcome if accompanied by an adult

In the grand tradition of the African Safari, set up camp at the Los Angeles Zoo and fall asleep to the sounds of the elephants, flamingos, and sea lions! Join educators from the Natural History Museum and the zoo as we explore the zoo after hours, get a behind-the-scenes peek at some of the animals, and gather round an evening campfire for songs and snacks. Favorite camp leader **Dave Wyman** will provide dinner and snacks Saturday night and breakfast Sunday morning. Families may bring tents and camping gear (or rent gear through our on-site safari coordinator). $60 adult and $40 child, museum or zoo members; $75 adult and $50 child, nonmembers.

■ A PALEONTOLOGY TOUR OF CENTRAL OREGON

Sunday, June 21, through Friday, June 27. Open to families with children ages 6 and older

Begin the summer discovering the fascinating world of fossils and natural history on our family excursion to central Oregon. Our trip begins with a visit to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry where we'll view Giants of the Gobi, a special exhibition of fossils from China's Gobi Desert including the largest assembled dinosaur in the world. We'll drive through the Columbia Gorge and arrive at our base-camp located in the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, where we spend the week nestled among the rolling hills of juniper-sage grassland at Hancock Field Station.



PUBLIC PROGRAMS RESERVATION FORM

■ **By telephone:** Use your MasterCard or VISA. Call the Education Division at 213/744-3534, weekdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Credit cards are accepted only with a minimum charge of $20.

■ **By mail:** Complete the form below, fill in the charge information or enclose a check payable to Museum Foundation, and return your order form and payment with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The form may be duplicated. Mail to: ***Education Division, Natural History Museum, 900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90007***

■ **Important: Reservation, Waiting List and Refund Policies.** Preregistration is required for all classes, workshops, and field trips and is recommended for all other Education Division programs. Tickets to auditorium events may be purchased at the door; seating is not reserved. Reservations are not necessary for Family Fundays.

Applicants for filled programs will be placed on a waiting list and contacted if vacancies or rescheduling occur. If you have paid for a filled program, your payment will be refunded in 4-6 weeks.

Cancellations must be made one week prior to the first day of the event for the registrant to be eligible for a refund. Only if we are able to fill your space will the fee be refunded.

Dates and times of programs are subject to change, and class sizes are limited. Please call 213/744-3534 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. to verify program dates, times, and availability.

Mr.
Mrs.
Miss
Ms.
NAME (Please Print Clearly)

( ) HOME
( ) BUSINESS

ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP CODE

Mail to:
Education Division
Natural History Museum
900 Exposition Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90007

❑ My check is enclosed

Charge my credit card:
❑ MasterCard
❑ VISA

Program	Number of participants	Price	Total Price

Total Remittance _____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Please list children's names, ages, and programs in which they are enrolling:

_____

_____

_____

_____

FAMILY FUNDAYS!

These hands-on family programs are **free** with museum admission for children ages 4 and older. They are held in the Discovery Center of the Museum of Natural History in Exposition Park. No reservations are necessary, but space in some programs is limited, so please arrive early.

■ LIFESONG OF THE SEA

Saturday, March 1, 1:30 p.m.

While singing songs like "Giants in the Tidepools" with professional children's song writer and performer **Ken Watson,** we'll learn about the creatures of the sea. We'll also a create a sea-craft to take home.

■ SINK YOUR TEETH IN!

Saturday, April 11, 1:30 p.m.

Sink your teeth into the fun and learn about saber–toothed cats while exploring fossils from the La Brea Tar Pits. We'll also bite into a cat craft activity.

For a complete itinerary, please phone 213/744-3534. $400 members, $425 nonmembers (hotel fee for Saturday, June 21, and roundtrip airfare of approximately $180 from Los Angeles, based on 1996 prices, not included). Cosponsored by the San Diego Natural History Museum.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ 7th ANNUAL NESBURN WRITING COMPETITION

Students in grades 4 through 8 are invited to participate in a writing competition on the subject of cats. Held in conjunction with the museum's exhibit, Cats! Wild to Mild, this contest will give the entrants an opportunity to learn more about these intriguing animals. The Dr. Henry and Lilian Nesburn contest rewards writing excellence in three categories—fiction, factual reporting, and poetry. Entries are restricted to students in public and private schools within Los Angeles County and must be received by April 1. A prize of $50 will be awarded to the winner in each competition category at each grade level.

Awards will be presented on May 17 during a special day of family activities at the Natural History Museum. Please contact the Education Division at 213/744-3534 to obtain more information.

■ INVITATION TO EXCITEMENT

Thinking about volunteering? Interested individuals are invited to sit in on a Thursday Docent training class, or attend a Saturday Service Council meeting, and discover the excitement of volunteering at the Natural History Museum. For further information please call 213/744-3341.

■ ADVENTURES FOR EDUCATORS

The Natural History Museum's Education Division will be hosting its Adventures For Educators evening on Thursday March 20, and this year's theme is Endangered Species. This informative evening for educators, held at the Museum of Natural History in Exposition Park, will feature numerous useful activities, including a Resource Fair, hands-on workshops, and expert speakers. The teachers will round out the evening with a visit to the museum's newest exhibit, Cats! Wild to Mild. Each teacher attending will receive a copy of the new curriculum written by the Education Staff for the exhibit.

The evening is for educators only and is free, but reservations are necessary. For further information about this and other programs for teachers, please call 213/744-4645.

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
Exposition Park, Los Angeles, California 90007

The Natural History Museum exists to advance knowledge and to enable people of all ages, backgrounds, and interests to understand and appreciate their natural and cultural heritage. The museum assembles, conserves, interprets, and holds in trust collections of irreplaceable objects from nature and human history. These collections reveal the history of the Earth and the evolution and diversity of life and culture. They sustain programs of research, exhibits, education, and publication.

The **Museum of Natural History,** Exposition Park, is located at 900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles 90007. The **George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries** is located at 5801 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles 90036. The **Petersen Automotive Museum** is located at 6060 Wilshire Boulevard, at Fairfax Avenue, Los Angeles 90036.

For recorded information on museum hours, admission fees for the general public, and days when no admission is charged, please call:

■ Exposition Park Museum	213/744-DINO
■ Page Museum	213/936-2230
■ Petersen Museum	213/930-CARS

Admission to these museums is always free to members.

The **William S. Hart Museum** is located at 24151 San Fernando Road, Hart Park, Newhall 91321. Admission is free. For information on museum hours, please call:

■ Hart Museum	805/254-4584

The Natural History Museum can be reached on the World Wide Web at http://www.nhm.org

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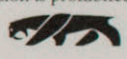

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